March 20, 2017 03:13 PM GMT

### **Zhaojin Mining Industry**

# Snippets from results briefing

⊮ Stock Rating Overweight

Price Target HK\$8.24

**2017 guidance - flat own volume:** The company guided for flat YoY self-mined gold production at 599.2koz. However, it expects processing and smelting gold output to increase by 10.5% YoY to 558.2koz.

**Unit cost under control:** Overall unit cost increased by about Rmb3/g (2.5% YoY) to Rmb138.4/g in 2016, mainly on higher labor costs and deeper mining. However, that was partially offset by increased recovery rates during concentrate selection after technical upgrades. For 2017, management aims to maintain flat cost.

**Capex - exploring M&A opportunities:** 2016 actual capex was Rmb1.24bn, 25% lower YoY due to some production line upgrades completed in 2015. Management expects 2017 capex at Rmb1.45bn, +17% YoY, of which, Rmb500mn is budgeted for acquisitions and exploration. Management said there was no fixed target, but this is a general acquisition budget. They said the company is exploring potential opportunities worldwide.

Haiyu project update: Zhaojin said its new mine Haiyu is continuing to be developed. It has achieved utility connections and ground engineering, and now is going through regulatory procedures, such as environmental assessment and license applications. With gold veins 300m under a seabed that is covered by a shallow 70-80m of water, management expects limited technical difficulty, similar to normal underground mines. Management expects the mine to commence production by late 2019, with designed capacity of ~15t/yr. With over 4g/t ore grade, gross unit production cost at Haiyu project should be lower than other mines in Zhaoyuan (which are at 132g/t). So far, Rmb1bn in capex has been invested in the project, with a further Rmb4-4.5bn planned during 2017-19. In 2017, Zhaojin expects to invest Rmb300-400mn capex in Haiyu, as the project is mainly working through administration issues this year. Capex for Haiyu will pick up in 2018-19.

**A-share IPO planned:** Although no specific timetable as been introduced yet, Zhaojin continues to push forward on its A-share IPO. Management has indicated this is a top priority.

**Hedging practice:** Zhaojin said it will hedge no more than 30% of self-produced gold to smooth out gold price fluctuations. Due to hedging, Zhaojin's realized ASP is about Rmb3/g lower than annual average gold price on SHFE (Shanghai Future Exchange). Zhaojin's gold leasing position is fully hedged.



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#### Zhaojin Mining Industry (1818.HK, 1818 HK)

#### Greater China Materials / China Stock Rating Overweight Industry View Attractive Price target HK\$8.24 Up/downside to price target (%) HK\$7.53 Shr price, close (Mar 20, 2017) 52-Week Range HK\$10.02-5.61 Sh out, dil, curr (mn) 2,966 US\$2,878 Mkt cap, curr (mn) EV. curr (mn) US\$4.737 Avg daily trading value (mn) US\$9.1 **Fiscal Year Ending** 12/18e 12/15 12/16e 12/17e Revenue, net (Rmb mn) 5,887 6,092 6,457 6,723 EBITDA (Rmb mn) 1,789 2,259 2,587 2,840 ModelWare net inc 308 402 512 555 (Rmb mn) ModelWare EPS (Rmb) 0.10 0.14 0.17 0.19 Consensus EPS (Rmb)§ 0.14 0.18 0.24 0.28 P/E 44.1 38.8 35.3 35.8 EV/EBITDA 13.3 14.1 13.6 12.5 P/BV 1.0 1.6 1.8 1.7 ROE (%) 3.6 3.7 4.7 4.9 1.1 0.8 0.9 1.0 Div yld (%)

Unless otherwise noted, all metrics are based on Morgan Stanley ModelWare

framework § = Consensus data is provided by Thomson Reuters Estimates

e = Morgan Stanley Research estimates

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### 2016 in review

**Impairment & effective tax rate:** Impairment losses increased, although the gold price increased YoY. This was mainly due to impairments on 3 mine projects, including exploration in Xinjiang which has not yielded any notable reserve increase. According to conservative accounting practices management has recognized impairment losses. As such impairment is not tax deductible, effective tax rate spiked to 46% in 2016 from 23-28% during 2008-2015.

**Rmb105mn administrative expense on employee stock program:** Management guided that a Rmb105mn administrative expense was recognized due to employee stock ownership program (ESOP). The program was announced at the 2015 board meeting, and actual expense recognition is based on when Zhaojin's stock price was over HK\$9.

Lower finance costs helped by interest rates: The company's finance expenses dropped on lower interest rates. The interest rate on its corporate bonds have been reduced from 4.6% to 3.89%, while interest for gold leasing in 2016 was as low as 3.2-3.3%. Zhaojin's debt composition is as follows: 1) gold leasing 20-30%; 2) bank borrowing 10%; 3) corporate bonds 40%.

**Copper** segment reported a loss in 2016 due to subdued copper price. The company proactively reduced copper output to protect reserves in the low price environment.

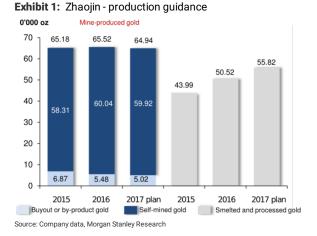
#### **Recent reports:**

Zhaojin Mining : 2016 results: gross profit beat, net profit miss (19 Mar 2017)

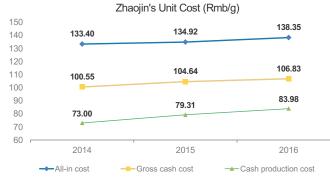
Greater China Materials: Correction: Improved Demand Outlook + Supply Cut Lead to Re-Rating (14 Mar 2017)

metal&ROCK: The Price Deck - 2Q 2017 (13 Mar 2017)

# Exhibits

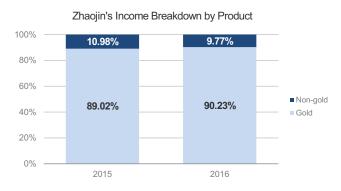


#### Exhibit 3: Zhaojin - cost trend in Rmb/g



Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

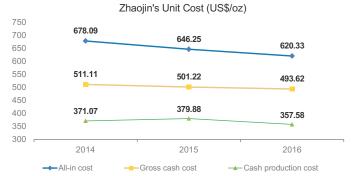
#### Exhibit 2: Zhaojin - revenue breakdown gold vs. non-gold



**UPDATE** 

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

#### Exhibit 4: Zhaojin - cost trend in USD/g



Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

#### Exhibit 5: Zhaojin - capex breakdown

(Rmb mn)	2016	2016	Difference	2017	YoY	
	Planned	Actual	Difference	Plan		
Gold mine acquisition and senior exploration projects	500.0	82.6	-83%	500.0	505%	
Infrastructure technical upgrade	789.0	816.0	3%	700.0	-14%	
Technical innovation	78.7	83.3	6%	73.1	-12%	
Exploration activities	104.0	140.0	35%	82.3	-41%	
Assets maintenance capex	160.7	113.2	-30%	84.4	-25%	
Land leasing	10.0	6.4	-36%	7.5	17%	
Total	1,642.4	1,241.6	-24%	1,447.3	17%	

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

### UPDATE

Our HK\$8.24 price target is our base case scenario value, derived using Morgan Stanley's residual income model, in which we discount our base-case earnings estimates through 2024, and then normalize them by our cost of equity of 8.5% (on a risk-free rate of 0%, a market risk premium of 7.2%, and a beta of 1.1). We assume long-term ROE of 12.0% and a steady-state revenue growth rate of 5% p.a.

**Key downside risks:** i) Falling gold price amid US dollar strength; ii) execution risk in new projects; iii) increased borrowings lead to higher finance costs and weigh on near-term earnings.

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	COVERAGE UI	NIVERSE	INVESTMEN	IT BANKING CLI	ENTS (IBC)	OTHER MA INVESTMENT S CLIENTS (	SERVICES
STOCK RATING	COUNT	% OF	COUNT	% OF	% OF	COUNT	% OF
CATEGORY		TOTAL		TOTAL IBC	RATING		TOTAL
				(	CATEGORY		OTHER
							MISC
Overweight/Buy	1148	35%	286	43%	25%	551	36%
Equal-weight/Hold	1418	43%	297	45%	21%	699	46%
Not-Rated/Hold	61	2%	8	1%	13%	8	1%
Underweight/Sell	638	<b>20%</b>	76	11%	12%	269	18%
TOTAL	3,265		667			1527	

Data include common stock and ADRs currently assigned ratings. Investment Banking Clients are companies from whom Morgan Stanley received investment banking compensation in the last 12 months.

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Price Target History: 1/22/14 : 5.7; 4/8/14 : 5.5; 7/8/14 : 5.6; 10/8/14 : 5.2; 12/16/14 : 4.5; 1/20/15 : 5.6; 4/17/15 : 4.7; 6/1/15 : 8; 9/30/15 : 6.5; 12/16/15 : 5.6; 3/16/16 : 6.6; 6/28/16 : 9.25; 12/13/16 : 9.34; 3/14/17 : 8.24

Source: Morgan Stanley Research Date Format : MM/DD/YY Price Target —• No Price Target Assigned (NA) Stock Price (Not Covered by Current Analyst) — Stock Price (Covered by Current Analyst) **—** Stock and Industry Ratings (abbreviations below) appear as **+** Stock Rating/Industry View Stock Ratings: Overweight (O) Equal-weight (E) Underweight (U) Not-Rated (NR) No Rating Available (NA) Industry View: Attractive (A) In-line (I) Cautious (C) No Rating (NR)

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#### INDUSTRY COVERAGE: Greater China Materials

COMPANY (TICKER)	RATING (AS OF)	PRICE* (03/20/2017)
Han Fu		
Tianqi Lithium Industries Inc. (002466.SZ)	O (12/19/2015)	Rmb39.39
Lindsay Hu		
•		
China Molybdenum (3993.HK) China Molybdenum (603993.SS)	O (11/03/2016) U (11/03/2016)	HK\$2.89 Rmb4.68
Rachel L Zhang		
Auminum Corp. of China Ltd. (601600.SS) Auminum Corp. of China Ltd. (2600.HK) Angang Steel Company Limited (0347.HK) Angang Steel Company Limited (000898.SZ) Baoshan Iron & Steel (600019.SS) China Steel Corp. (2002.TW) Jiangxi Copper (0358.HK) Jiangxi Copper (600362.SS) Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing (2314.HK) Maanshan Iron & Steel (600808.SS) Maanshan Iron & Steel (0323.HK) Nine Dragons Paper (2689.HK) Shandong Nanshan Aluminium Co. (600219.SS)	$\begin{array}{l} E \left( 03/14/2017 \right) \\ O \left( 03/14/2017 \right) \\ O \left( 011/28/2013 \right) \\ O \left( 011/16/2016 \right) \\ O \left( 011/16/2016 \right) \\ U \left( 04/17/2015 \right) \\ E \left( 10/08/2014 \right) \\ U \left( 04/17/2015 \right) \\ O \left( 07/20/2015 \right) \\ O \left( 03/14/2017 \right) \\ O \left( 01/16/2016 \right) \\ O \left( 04/13/2016 \right) \\ O \left( 09/29/2015 \right) \end{array}$	Rmb4.83 HK\$3.94 HK\$6.02 Rmb5.81 Rmb6.73 NT\$25.85 HK\$13.08 Rmb18.34 HK\$6.29 Rmb3.36 HK\$3.06 HK\$8.57 Rmb3.33
Sara Chan		
Shandong Gold Mning Co. Ltd (600547.SS) Zhaojin Mning Industry (1818.HK) Zhongjin Gold Corp. Ltd. (600489.SS) Zijin Mning Group (601899.SS) Zijin Mning Group (2899.HK)	E (03/16/2016) O (01/20/2015) E (03/14/2017) U (05/19/2016) E (12/13/2016)	Rmb35.97 HK\$7.53 Rmb12.09 Rmb3.50 HK\$3.09

Stock Ratings are subject to change. Please see latest research for each company. \* Historical prices are not split adjusted.

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